



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Mt. Elizabeth Drive Fuel Break

PROJECT LOCATION T2N, R16E, Sections 5& 6

COUNTY Tuolumne

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CONTACT Steve Hollett, Unit Forester

PHONE (209) 754-3831

ADDRESS 785 Mt. Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Elizabeth Drive Fuel Break is part of a strategic fire defense system that is planned to provide fire protection to the Cedar Ridge and Twain Harte communities. The Highway 108 Fire Safe Council has been working with willing landowners in the area to create fuel breaks along roads and ridges that will be defensible against a fire coming out of the South Fork of the Stanislaus River canyon.

The project area is on private property with housing subdivisions on its north, south, east and western boundaries. The predominant fuel type is manzanita and oak woodland with scattered pockets of ponderosa pine and cedar. This project is designed to treat Manzanita, small conifers and other brush species for a minimum distance of 100' on both sides of Mt. Elizabeth Drive. A total of 72 acres is planned for treatment. Topography can be characterized as rolling with slopes to 30%.

A combination of mastication and manual work will be the treatment methods throughout the project. Overstory trees will be retained and all "ladder fuels" will be targeted for removal. Mastication will treat fuels by shredding vegetation to an average level of less than 6". All areas treated manually will have the slash chipped.

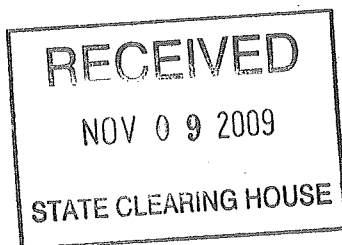
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class §15304 – Minor Alteration to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Project does not involve the removal of healthy, mature or scenic trees. Project will result in improvement in wildlife habitat. Project activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion or sedimentation of surface waters. No soil disturbance will occur near riparian areas or streams. All elderberry plants will be retained within the project area. Cultural resources will not be impacted by the project as proposed.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



for W. E. Snyder
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director

11/9/09
Date